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Tavistock Rural District



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

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Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector

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Captain A. SANDERSON, A.I.Housing., A.P.C.A.

Medical Officer of Health's Secretary

Miss M. J. BODDY



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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year ended 31st December, 1953, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

The general health of the district was good throughout the year and measles was the only infectious disease to occur in epidemic form.

The population of the district remains static and the vital statistics are almost identical with those for the previous year. They compare favourably with those for England and Wales and are set out in the accompanying tables.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	151,080
Population—1931 Census	15,149
Population—1951 Census	16,300
Estimated Home Population—mid-1953 ...	16,050
Parishes	25
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,790
Rateable Value	£99,382
Product of Penny Rate	£396
Loan Debt	£453,770

VITAL STATISTICS

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Live Births	112	103	215	
Legitimate	108	97	—	
Illegitimate	4	6	—	
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	13.4			<i>England & Wales</i> 15.5
Corrected Birth Rate	15.0			
Still Births	4			
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births ...	18.3			22.4
Deaths	108	78	186	
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.6			11.4
Corrected Death Rate	9.3			
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil			
Maternal Mortality	—			0.76
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	8			
Infant Mortality	37.2			26.8

The chief causes of death were as follows:—

INFECTIOUS CAUSES:

Influenza	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1

GENERAL CAUSES:

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Coronary Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Cerebral Vascular Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Arteriosclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Disease of the Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gastric Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accidental	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Total							186

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR:

Congenital Deformities	...	...	...	...	3
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	3
Fulminating Broncho Pneumonia		...	...	...	1
Inhalation Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
				Total	8

AGE OF DEATH TABLE

<i>Age at Death</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	6	2
1-5 years	...	...	...	1	—
5-15 years	...	...	...	1	—
15-25 years	...	...	...	1	—
25-35 years	...	...	...	—	2
35-45 years	...	...	...	4	—
45-55 years	...	...	...	3	3
55-65 years	...	...	...	15	7
65-75 years	...	...	...	30	25
75 and over	...	...	...	47	39
Totals				108	78

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

There was no change in the general provision of the health services during the year and they continued to work smoothly.

MATERNITY ACCOMMODATION.

The Tavistock Maternity Home was opened on 6th May, 1953, and from then until 31st December, 1953, 65 babies were born there as follows:—

Tavistock Urban District	...	...	24
Tavistock Rural District	...	...	34
Other	...	...	7
			65

Thus almost one-quarter of the Rural births are taking place at this most desirable home. There is, however, still something left to be desired in the arrangements for admission of expectant mothers. At the present time applicants for admission have to be "screened" by the District Nurse on

behalf of the County Authority who are the appointed agents of the Hospital Management Committee. From the nature of the form the Nurse has to complete it is obvious that only those whose home conditions are bad or who can produce evidence that care there is not possible stand a chance of being selected.

This, in my opinion, is most unfair to the community as a whole, many of whom in the higher income groups are paying enormous sums in general taxation to maintain an institution of this nature. It would be more in keeping with equity if a proportion of the beds were set aside for necessitous and emergency cases, and the remainder thrown open to any mother-to-be who cares to apply for admission without undergoing this humiliating process of "screening", particularly as the present arrangement does not keep the bed turnover working to full capacity.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 47.

The Officer appointed to visit the blind brought the case of an old lady living under deplorable conditions to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health. Immediate steps were taken to implement Section 47, as amended, and the case was taken to Gwynntor Hospital, Tavistock, where there was a rapid improvement to her health.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

The comprehensive table at the end of the report, prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, tabulates in detail the method of water service to each of your 25 parishes.

The areas for which your Council are the water undertakers, namely Horrabridge, Grenofen, Milton Combe, Princetown and Walkhampton, were well served and the 32 samples taken by your Inspectors were all satisfactory.

There was no period of drought but it is noticeable that although the yield of water from Watery Ford continues to be adequate, owing to the very slight difference in the O.D. levels the supply to the Sampford Cross area becomes affected and at times intermittent when there is a very heavy pull from the lower levels of Horrabridge. The Grenofen area with its comparatively substantial development during the year is safeguarded because of the balancing tank at Sortridge.

Defects to the mains occurred at Walkhampton and Grenofen, and were speedily repaired.

The obsolete "hit and miss" type of chlorinator at Rundlestone for the Princetown water supply was scrapped and replaced by a modern MSP-M type complete with chlorine gas cylinder. The performance is very satisfactory, thus constant and accurate chlorination is assured.

Mr. Young, District Engineer to the North Devon Water Board, has submitted the following report on progress during the year in your district:—

BERE FERRERS WATER SUPPLY: In the town of Bere Alston there is still ample water, and treatment is still carried out to counteract the plumbo-solvent action of the water which is also chlorinated.

The Board have placed on their Priority List a main extension from Bere Alston reservoir to supply Bere Ferrers.

LIFTON WATER SUPPLY: Mainlaying has commenced on the new main from Four Ways, Brentor, via Chillaton, Portgate, to Lifton and Lifton Down. At the present date the contractors have reached Chillaton and it is anticipated that the main should reach Lifton during the summer.

The following samples were taken by the Board during the year:—

<i>Parish</i>				<i>Total Samples Taken</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Bad</i>
Bere Ferrers:							
Bere Alston	...	...	...	9	6	2	1
Bere Ferrers	...	...	...	5	5	—	—
Brentor	...	...	...	8	8	—	—
Lifton	...	...	...	6	4	1	1
Lydford	...	...	...	7	7	—	—
Mary Tavy	...	...	...	8	8	—	—
Milton Abbot:							
Chillaton	...	...	...	6	5	—	1
Peter Tavy	...	...	...	9	9	—	—
Sydenham Damarel:							
Horsebridge	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Sydenham Damarel	...	...	...	1	—	—	1
Tavistock Hamlets:							
Mill Hill	...	...	...	2	1	1	—
Totals				62	53	5	4

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

By and large, very good progress was made with drainage and sewerage schemes during the year and the persistent efforts of the Council have at last met with some success.

Many drainage works were carried out to several cottages, including the eight Council houses at Lamerton, by connecting same to the Council's new sewer.

The major sewerage scheme of laying the new Dousland sewer and coupling same to the existing sewer at Yelverton, and also completely modernising the Gratton Sewage Disposal Works, was completed at an estimated cost of £27,216. This was an excellent achievement, being the only cure to abolish the many nuisances which existed at Dousland by reason of the sewage sick ground. A further achievement was the abolition of the three obsolete septic settling tanks at Sparkaton, Lower Lake and Gratton.

Yet a further success was the approval of the Ministry to the Brentor Sewerage Scheme. This was only after repeated applications and a personal interview with the Ministry Inspectors at their London offices, but as has been pointed out repeatedly by your Medical Officer this scheme is long overdue.

Another gratifying feature was the informal inquiry held by the Ministry in connection with the Chillaton, Grenofen and Milton Combe proposals. A forward move and it is hoped that the necessary sanctions will shortly be forthcoming.

Much frustration was experienced in respect of the Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy Schemes. Despite several Sub-Committee meetings and interviews with the Council's Consulting Engineers, difficulties concerning the acquisition of suitable sites, long lengths of non-productive pipe lines, duplication because of the double valley at Mary Tavy, etc., have prevented the production of suitable schemes at figures even within striking distance of the Ministry's permitted maximum.

The County River Boards continued very zealously to check all sewage works. Numerous samples of effluent were taken and the resultant reports were very varied but generally speaking they showed an improvement on those of the previous year.

The Council's sewage works have been maintained and cleansed as frequently as was possible with the limited direct labour force available. The decision of the Council to purchase an additional vehicle and to appoint an additional labourer for sewage works maintenance was imperative to meet their increasing demands and should prove a wise investment.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The duties of the Sanitary Inspectors continue to be onerous, as can be seen from the following table of visits during the year:—

Visits to Council houses	...	...	...	...	928
Nuisances investigated	...	...	...	...	246
Water Supplies—New and Repaired	...	...	...	...	96
Visits in connection with water supplies	...	...	...	...	255
Visits in connection with foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	589
Water samples submitted	...	...	...	...	32
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	3
Tests for new and re-laid drains	...	...	...	...	130
Visits <i>re</i> buildings in course of construction	...	...	...	...	398
Number of plans submitted	...	...	...	...	240
Visits in connection therewith	...	...	...	...	202
New Septic Tank installations	...	...	...	...	52
Visits <i>re</i> Petroleum Licences	...	...	...	...	28
Visits <i>re</i> sewerage and sewage disposal	...	...	...	...	283
Visits <i>re</i> Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	192
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	823

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The direct labour collection for the southern parishes continued very satisfactorily. The northern parishes are covered by contract, and although the various contractors gave a satisfactory service, the necessity for the Council to purchase a second vehicle still exists in order that the collection can be extended throughout the whole of the district.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1. *Inspections.*

<i>Premises</i> (i)	<i>Number on Register</i> (ii)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspection</i> (iii)	<i>Written Notices</i> (iv)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> (v)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	15	64	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	48	106	6	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	9	15	—	—
TOTAL ...	72	185	6	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<i>Particulars</i> (i)	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i> (vi)
	<i>Found</i> (ii)	<i>Remedied</i> (iii)	<i>Referred</i> <i>To H.M. Inspector</i> (iv)		<i>By H.M. Inspector</i> (v)
Want of Cleanliness ...	6	6	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation...	2	2	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	6	6	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences: (a) Insufficient	3	3	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	20	20	—	—	—

WEATHER.

The Meteorological Report from the Tavistock Observatory is included as a matter of general interest. The report applies generally to the district with the exception of the Princetown region which has climatic conditions peculiar to itself.

Height above sea-level—457 feet in Stevenson Screen.

Latitude—50.33 N; Longitude—4.10 W.

The total rainfall was 39.73 inches. (1952=45.96 inches.)

The total number of wet days was 166.

The average amount of rain is 48.8 inches.

Very little lightning and thunder.

Lowest Dry Bulb Temperature was 25.7 on 5th January.

Highest Dry Bulb Temperature was 68.5 on 25th May.

Lowest on grass—16.0 on 5th January.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Rainfall</i>	<i>Rainfall</i> 1952	<i>No. of</i> <i>wet days</i>	<i>Average</i> <i>temp. per</i> <i>dry bulb</i>	<i>Notes</i>
January	1.34	5.28	10	38.9	—
February	2.03	1.18	14	40.0	2" snow on 14th.
March	1.22	4.83	6	45.3	Very dry. half fell on one day.
April	3.21	4.04	16	48.2	On three days $\frac{3}{4}$ " fell.
May	4.62	2.98	12	55.7	—
June	4.35	1.66	15	57.8	—
July	4.51	1.54	22	59.4	1.36" rain on 11th.
August	2.73	6.64	13	61.6	—
September	5.23	4.31	17	56.9	Frcst appeared.
October	5.22	5.56	12	53.0	On last eight days. 4.61" fell.
November	4.12	4.02	16	48.3	—
December	1.15	3.92	13	47.5	half of this fell on the 3rd.
	<u>39.73"</u>	<u>45.96"</u>	<u>166</u>		

SECTION D.

HOUSING

A very pleasing feature was the granting to Local Authorities, as from 1st January, increased powers and concessions relative to the issuing of Private Enterprise licences. This achieved the double object of allowing more latitude and freedom of choice to applicants and also of easing the waiting list of applicants for Council houses. During the year 49 licences were issued, 29 comparable in size with Council houses and 20 of the larger type.

Repairs to Council houses were numerous, but the many complaints received prompt attention and all your Estates are well maintained.

The increased lettings of Council houses necessitated numerous visits to old properties by your Medical Officer of Health. Careful and judicial action was called for as many of the vacated properties had served their economic life. Many were restored as the landlord, after the service of a Statutory Notice, volunteered to carry out repairs at an unreasonable cost, but in many cases a closing or demolition order was the only possible action. Recourse to the Court was necessary in the case of three houses in a dangerous condition.

The following tabulation gives full details of the waiting list for Council house accommodation. It will be noted with satisfaction that during the year the number of applicants was reduced from 306 to 166.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total on Waiting List</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>	<i>Non- Agricultural</i>	<i>No. in Lodgings</i>	<i>No. with separate home</i>
Bere Ferrers	6	—	6	1	5
Bere Alston	45	10	35	11	34
Brentor	3	—	3	—	3
Buckland					
Monachorum	18	2	16	3	15
Crapstone	10	1	9	2	8
Yelverton	9	—	9	3	6
Coryton	—	—	—	—	—
Horrabridge	40	2	38	5	35
Lamerton	6	—	6	—	6
Lifton	2	—	2	—	2
Lydford	4	—	4	1	3
Princetown	7	—	7	1	6
Mary Tavy	5	—	5	2	3
Milton Abbot	—	—	—	—	—
Chillaton	—	—	—	—	—
Peter Tavy	—	—	—	—	—
Stowford	—	—	—	—	—
Walkhampton	7	1	6	1	6
Whitchurch (Grenofen)	1	—	1	—	1
Miscellaneous	3	—	3	—	3
TOTALS	166	16	150	30	136

COUNCIL HOUSES—1954 PROGRAMME

It is pleasing to record that during 1953 progress of the Council house programme was stepped up. 50 new houses were completed and occupied, i.e., 10 at Bere Alston, 22 at Horrabridge, 6 at Mary Tavy, 8 at Milton Abbot and 4 at Princetown.

COUNCIL HOUSES IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION

<i>Parish</i>		<i>Village</i>		<i>No. of houses to be built</i>	<i>Site Number</i>
Bere Ferrers	...	Bere Alston	...	12	O.S. 1324 1325
Horrabridge	...	Horrabridge	...	20	O.S. 78
Lamerton	...	Lamerton	...	24	O.S. 434, 435
				—	
				TOTAL 56	
				—	

REMAINDER OF HOUSING PROGRAMME CARRIED FORWARD

<i>Parish</i>		<i>Village</i>		<i>No. of houses to be built</i>	<i>Site Number</i>
Bere Ferrers	...	Bere Alston	...	23	O.S. 1324 and 1325
Buckland		Buckland			O.S. 416
Monachorum	...	Monachorum	...	18	and 515
Horrabridge	...	Horrabridge	...	18	O.S. 78
Lifton	...	Lifton	...	2	O.S. 754
Marystowe	...	near Lewdown	...	4	O.S. 648
Mary Tavy	...	Mary Tavy	...	8	O.S. 508
Meavy	...	Meavy	...	4	O.S. 129
Sampford Spiney	...	Sampford Cross	...	4	O.S. 175
				—	
				TOTAL 81	
				—	

The Ministry of Works are erecting 44 Cornish Unit houses at Princetown for the Prison Commissioners. This should largely relieve the Council of any obligation to build more Council houses on this site.

Every endeavour has been made to derequisition Requisitioned Property.

COUNCIL HOUSES IN THE TAVISTOCK RURAL DISTRICT—1954

<i>Parish</i>		<i>Village</i>		<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>Total No. in Parish</i>
Bere Ferrers	...	Bere Alston	...	80	
		Bere Ferrers	...	10	90
Bradstone	...	—	...	—	—
Brentor	... ..	Brentor	... ..	14	14
Buckland		Buckland			
Monachorum		Monachorum	...	14	
		Yelverton	... ..	4	18
Coryton	... ..	—		—	—
Dunterton	... ..	—		—	—
Horrabridge	...	Horrabridge	...	70	70
Kelly	... ..	Kelly	... ..	2	2
Lamerton	... ..	Lamerton	...	10	10
Lewtrenchard	...	—		—	—
Lifton	... ..	Lifton	... ..	36	36
Lydford	... ..	Lydford	... ..	10	
		Princetown	...	24	34
Marystowe	...	near Lewdown	...	4	4
Mary Tavy	...	Mary Tavy	...	26	26
Meavy	... ..	Meavy	... ..	8	8
Milton Abbot	...	Chillaton	... ..	16	
		Milton Abbot	...	8	24
Peter Tavy	...	Peter Tavy	...	14	14
Sampford Spiney	...	Sampford Spiney	...	4	4
Sheepstor	... ..	—		—	—
Stowford	... ..	Stowford	... ..	4	4
Sydenham	Damarel	—		—	—
Tavistock	Hamlets	—		—	—
Thrushelton	...	Lobhill	... ..	2	2
Walkhampton	...	Walkhampton	...	40	40
Whitchurch	... ..	Grenofen	... ..	8	8
				GRAND TOTAL	408

In addition 43 families are housed in the Crapstone hutments, Parish of Buckland Monachorum.

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES
 RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1953

PART A—CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936)

	<i>Number of dwelling-houses demolished in the period</i>		<i>Number of persons displaced</i>
	<i>Unfit houses</i>	<i>Other houses</i>	
(1) Land coloured “pink” ...	Nil	—	Nil
(2) Land coloured “grey” ...	—	Nil	Nil

PART B—HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS

	Number of	
	Houses	Persons Displaced
DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS:		
(1) <i>Housing Act, 1936</i>		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11 ...	Nil	Nil
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force ...	2	8
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) ...	Nil	Nil
(2) <i>Housing Act, 1949</i>		
(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3(1) ...	Nil	Nil
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2) ...	Nil	Nil
(3) <i>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953</i>		
Closing Orders made under Section 10(1) ...	Nil	Nil
		Number of Houses
REPAIRS:		
INFORMAL ACTION		
(4) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts ...		38
ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS		
(5) <i>Public Health Acts</i>		
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...		
(a) by Owners ...		Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ...		Nil
(6) <i>Housing Act, 1936</i>		
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) ...		
(a) by Owners ...		2
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ...		Nil

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

It is pleasing to record that the tuition of previous years has at last borne fruit. The standard of cleanliness throughout the whole of the district is of a satisfactory level and it is noticeable that proprietors of food shops are far more co-operative.

In addition to routine visits, checking on general cleanliness, washing facilities, etc., special attention has been paid to premises affected with rats and mice and where necessary rat-proofing has been carried out.

MILK

Your Sanitary Inspector took 27 samples of milk of which 4 were unsatisfactory. The dairies were checked and repeat samples proved satisfactory. There are 10 dairymen in the district who are not producer-retailers.

There is still a lack of co-operation between the authorities responsible for milk production and your officers. This applies particularly to alterations and adaptations of existing buildings. Often your Sanitary Inspector is not notified and drainage works are in many cases not up to the required standard.

ICE CREAM

The premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture, sale or storage of ice cream show a slight decrease, numbering 47 as against 50. Of the 47, there is only one manufacturer and even at these premises the amount made is very small. All the other proprietors sell pre-packed ice cream purchased from old established firms where the ice cream is prepared under very hygienic conditions.

8 samples were taken and all reports were Grade 1.

MEAT

The meat supply continues to come from the Town Abattoir and was duly inspected there. By permission of the Urban Council the following report and table of meat inspection is submitted:

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle, excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed ... (if known)	1962	588	1234	7328	2705
Number inspected	1962	588	1234	7328	2705
All diseases except tuberculosis: Whole carcasses con- demned	12	32	146	133	21
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	928	280	4	1426	516
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	47.50	53.06	12.12	21.27	19.85
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses con- demned	11	24	3	—	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	86	101	—	—	134
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	4.95	21.25	.24	—	5.25

The Town Abattoir continued to serve not only Tavistock but a large part of the surrounding areas and 13,817 animal carcasses were dealt with during the year, an increase of 462 over the preceding year.

All carcasses were inspected before release to the meat depot and this duty involved 604 visits to the Abattoir.

The number of animals inspected and the carcasses, parts or organs condemned are set out in the previous table.

FOOD PREMISES

The following list of food premises in the district has been supplied by the Ministry of Food:

Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	18
Snack Bars and Mobile Caterers	...	...	...	...	1
Residential Hotels	...	...	...	...	49
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	11
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	4
Rural Pie Scheme	...	...	...	...	13
Sports Clubs	...	...	...	...	1
Meals on Wheels Service	...	...	...	...	1
Day Schools serving Main Meals	...	...	...	...	9
Day Schools obtaining Main Meals from Cooking Depot	...	...	...	...	11
Institutions	...	...	...	...	6
Butchers	...	...	...	...	16
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	4

There was no new educational activity during the year, simply distribution of clean food pamphlets.

FOOD POISONING

No case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

OTHER FOODSTUFFS

The following unsound foodstuffs were condemned during routine visits. It was observed that the standard of canning showed a marked improvement.

6 tins Meat	...	...	...	...	32 lbs.
8 tins Fruit	...	...	...	...	10 lbs. 8 ozs.
14 tins Milk	...	...	...	...	7 lbs. 14 ozs.
Beef	...	...	...	...	102 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	19 lbs. 4 ozs.

All condemned meat is returned to the Tavistock Depot for subsequent collection.

All condemned canned foodstuffs are pierced and disposed of at the refuse tip.

No special examination of a particular stock or consignment of food was found to be necessary.

SAMPLES TAKEN UNDER SECTION 3, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following samples were taken under the above Act during the year:

Milk	} All Genuine	Glycerine of Thymol	} All Genuine
Milk		Margarine	
Milk		Ice Cream	

In addition, 126 samples of milk were subjected to the Gerber Test. Result: Satisfactory.

SCHOOL MILK

The following samples were taken by the County Inspector:

<i>Grade</i>				<i>Total</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
Pasteurised	...	...	...	21	20	1
T.T.	...	...	...	11	7	4
TOTALS				32	27	5

PRODUCER/RETAILER SAMPLES OF UNGRADED MILK TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES BY THE COUNTY INSPECTOR.

Total: 17. Passed: 12. Failed: 5.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

The following cases of infectious disease were notified by the doctors
during the year:

<i>Age</i>		<i>Scarlet Fever</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>		<i>Measles</i>	
		<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Under 1 year	...	-	-	2	-	1	-
1-2 years	...	-	-	1	1	9	11
3-4 years	...	1	-	1	1	18	17
5-9 years	...	-	3	1	6	62	58
10-14 years	...	-	-	-	-	8	10
15-24 years	...	-	-	-	-	4	2
25 and over	...	-	-	-	-	-	1
Age unknown	...	-	-	-	-	2	2
TOTAL	...	1	3	5	8	104	101

DIPHTHERIA: No case of this disease was notified during the year.

POLIOMYELITIS: No case of poliomyelitis was notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS: 19 new cases of Pulmonary and 7 new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. 1 death was recorded from the former cause and 1 from the latter.

At the end of the year 107 cases remained on the register as follows:

<i>Pulmonary</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
Males	...	52	Males	...	14
Females	...	37	Females	...	4

CANCER RESEARCH: As a result of reading a paper in the British Medical Journal which claimed that there was some relationship between the amount of humus in the soil and the development of cancer, the records over the past fifteen years for Tavistock and District were analysed.

Out of a total 4,986 deaths, 677 were due to cancer, and most surprisingly the death rate for the Tamar Valley area was almost double that for the town and the remainder of the district.

The following cases were notified by the schools during the year:

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED BY SCHOOLS

<i>School</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>German Measles</i>	<i>Chicken Pox</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Scabies</i>	<i>Mumps</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Influenza Colds</i>	<i>Impetigo</i>	<i>Conjunc- tivitis</i>
Bere Alston	2	5	—	39	—	—	1	—	—	—
Buckland Monachorum ...	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Chillaton	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Horrabridge	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Lamerton	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mary Tavy	—	1	26	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
Meavy	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Milton Abbot	—	—	—	11	—	10	5	4	—	1
Princetown	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Walkhampton	—	—	31	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	6	7	62	83	2	13	7	4	1	1

This fact was communicated to the Journal and as a result a research has been undertaken. The analysis of the soil for excess humus was negative. However, when the deaths were plotted on a large scale map a remarkable geographical distribution became evident—bands of excessive incidence associated with bands where over a period of fifteen years no cancer deaths have been recorded. As a result of this further analysis of water and soil has been undertaken for the excess or lack of various trace elements. This research continues.

In conclusion I would thank the Chairman and Council for the ready hearing I have received at all times, and the Sanitary staff and others who have materially assisted in the preparation of this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE,

Medical Officer of Health.

TAVISTOCK RURAL DISTRICT WATER SUPPLIES

PARISH	Whether the water supply of the area and its several parts has been satisfactory (a) in quality (b) in quantity	Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply; if so, how many and the results obtained; the results of any chemical analyses	Where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and number and results of analyses	Action in respect of any form of contamination	Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains: (a) direct to the houses; (b) by means of standpipes			
					No. of Dwelling Houses		Total Population	
					Main	Standpipe	Main	Standpipe
BERE FERRERS	Engineers' report re quantity (a) Yes (b) Yes	Piped Supply 14 samples taken 13 satisfactory 1 unsatisfactory	SEE REPORT	SEE REPORT	524	—	1834	—
BRADSTONE ...	(a) Yes Wells only (b) Inadequate	No Piped Supply Private Wells only	With regard to this question, all the moorland waters are plumbo-solvent and many of the well waters also, however, no case of lead poisoning has been reported or discovered for a number of years.	None	—	—	—	—
BRENTOR ...	(a) Yes (b) Yes	Piped Supply 8 samples taken. All satisfactory		N.D.W.B.	56	6	196	21
BUCKLAND MONACHORUM	(a) Yes (b) Yes	Piped Supply. Part T.R.D.C. Part Plymouth C.B. Analyses made by Plymouth		Fencing covered Reservoirs	740	30	2590	105
CORYTON ...	(a) Yes (b) Reas. good	Wells only No Public Piped Supply	ditto	None	—	—	—	—
DUNTERTON ...	(a) Yes (b) No	Private Wells only No Piped Supply	ditto	None	—	—	—	—
HORRABRIDGE	(a) Yes (b) Yes	Piped Supply Part Tavistock R.D.C. Part Plymouth C.B.	ditto	None	385	—	1348	—
KELLY	(a) Yes (b) No	Wells only No Piped Supply	ditto	None	—	—	—	—
LAMERTON ...	(a) Yes (b) Yes	Piped Supply No samples taken	ditto	N.W.D.B.	99	—	347	—
LEW TRENCHARD	(a) Yes (b) Inadequate	No Piped Supply Wells only. 1 Public	ditto	None	—	—	—	—
LIFTON	(a) Yes (b) Yes	Piped Supply 6 samples taken 5 satis.; 1 unsatis.	ditto	Covered Reser- voir and Fencing	181	—	634	—
LYDFORD ...	(a) Yes (b) Yes	Piped Supply 7 samples taken All satisfactotry	ditto	N.D.W.B. (Lydford Town) Chlorination for Princetown	285	—	998	—
MARYSTOWE ...	(a) Yes (b) Reas. good	No Piped Supply	ditto	Covered Reservoir	—	—	—	—
MARY TAVY ...	(a) Yes (b) Yes	Piped Supply 8 samples taken All satisfactory	ditto	N.D.W.B.	136	20	476	70
MEAVY	(a) Yes (b) Yes	Piped Supply Plymouth C.B. Samples by Plymouth C.B.	ditto	None	103	—	361	—
MILTON ABBOT	(a) Yes (b) Reas. good	Piped Supply to Chillaton 6 samples taken, 5 satis.; 1 unsatis. Private Supply (Duke of Bedford) at Milton Abbot	ditto	Auxiliary Pump installed	55	—	193	—
PETER TAVY ...	(a) Yes (b) Yes	Piped Supply 9 samples taken All satisfactory	ditto	N.D.W.B.	55	3	193	10
SAMPFORD SPINEY	(a) Yes (b) Yes	Piped Supply Samples satisfactory	ditto	Reservoir fenced & covered	17	—	59	—
SHEEPSTOR ...	(a) Yes (b) Inadequate	Wells	ditto	None	—	—	—	—
STOWFORD ...	(a) Yes (b) Inadequate	Wells only	ditto	None	—	—	—	—
SYDENHAM DAMAREL ...	(a) Yes (b) Yes	Private Supply (Duke of Bedford) Public Well	ditto	None	—	—	—	—
TAVISTOCK HAMLETS ...	(a) Yes (b) Inadequate	Wells and Private Supply (Duke of Bedford)	ditto	None	2	—	7	—
THRUSHELTON	(a) Yes (b) Yes	Wells only	ditto	None	—	—	—	—
WALKHAMPTON	(a) Yes (b) Yes	Piped Supply Sample satisfactory	ditto	None	112	3	392	10
WHITCHURCH...	(a) Yes (b) Yes	Piped Supply and Wells Samples satisfactory	ditto	None	33	—	115	—

